

Appln. No.: 09/273,021
Amdt. dated February 27, 2004
Reply to Office action of 12/30/2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a patent application

with a computer comprising the steps of:

storing a document template in a computer program which contains [[the]]

headings equivalent to:

“BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) Field of the Invention

2) Description of the Prior Art

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

CLAIMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE”;

storing a page break immediately before the “CLAIMS” heading in the computer program;

storing a page break immediately before the “ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE” heading in the computer program;

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storing a footer in the computer program for displaying the attorney file identification on every page of the application;

composing by a user an independent claim in the computer program ending in a clause beginning with the words "characterized by" and reciting and isolating the patentable novelty and preceded by at least one clause reciting prior art elements to the extent necessary to support and provide antecedent basis for the "characterized by" clause;

composing by a user claims in the computer program ultimately dependent upon the independent claim for successively more specifically defining the patentable novelty; and

characterized by storing a duplicate set of all of the claims in the computer program, and creating the description by retrieving the duplicate set of claims under the heading "DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT", searching for each occurrence of the word "said" in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, programming the computer program to replace the word "said" with the word "the" in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, and editing the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification into grammatically correct sentence structure including adding verbs, and assigning reference numerals for the first time by the steps of storing the element names of the elements in the order recited in the duplicate set of claims, storing successive numbers beginning with a number above the highest Figure number to identify the respective element names, and searching for each occurrence of each respective element name in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims, replacing each respective element name with that respective element name followed by successive ones of said numbers to provide identifying reference numerals for the element

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names in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims and automatically shifting the reference numerals in response to changing the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims.

Claim 2 **(Canceled)**

3. **(Previously presented)** The method as set forth in claim 1 including the steps of storing a duplicate of the independent claim in the computer program, retrieving the duplicate independent claim under the heading “SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES”, and editing the duplicate independent claim copied under the heading “SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES” into grammatically correct sentence structure including changing “said” to “the” and adding verbs without adding further description whereby the “SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES” is commensurate in scope to the independent claim.

Claims 4 - 9 **(Canceled)**

10. **(Previously presented)** The method as set forth in claim 1 including the step of storing each reference numeral recited in the “CLAIMS” and in the “ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE” within parenthesis “()”, searching and replacing each such reference number in the “CLAIMS” and in the “ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE” with the corresponding stored reference number within parentheses “()”.

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Claims 11 - 18 **(Canceled)**

19. **(Currently amended)** A method of preparing a patent application with a computer characterized by performing the following steps:

 storing a document template in a computer program which contains [[the]]
 headings equivalent to,

“BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) Field of the Invention

2) Description of the Prior Art

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

CLAIMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE”;

 storing a page break in the computer program immediately before the
 “CLAIMS” heading;

 storing a page break in the computer program immediately before the
 heading

“ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE”;

 storing a footer in the computer program for displaying the attorney file
 identification on every page of the application;

 storing a Figure paragraph in the computer program immediately after the
 heading **“BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS”**;

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storing a terminal paragraph in the computer program stating it is to be understood that reference numerals in the claims are merely for convenience and are not to be in any way limiting immediately before the page break before the heading "CLAIMS";

composing by a user an independent claim in the computer program beginning with the words "characterized by" and ending in a clause reciting and isolating the patentable novelty and preceded by at least one clause reciting prior art elements only to the extent necessary to support and provide antecedent basis for the recitations in the "characterized by" clause;

composing by a user claims in the computer program ultimately dependent upon the independent claim for successively more specifically defining the patentable novelty;

storing a duplicate of the independent claim in the computer program, retrieving the stored independent claim under the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES", and editing the duplicate independent claim copied under the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES" into grammatically correct sentence structure including changing the word "said" to "the" and adding verbs without adding further description whereby the "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES" is commensurate in scope to the independent claim;

storing a duplicate set of all of the claims in the computer program, and creating the description by retrieving the duplicate set of claims under the heading "DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT";

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searching for each occurrence of the word "said" in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, programming the computer program to replace the word "said" with the word "the" in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, and editing the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification into grammatically correct sentence structure including adding verbs;

storing the element names in the computer program of the elements in the order recited in the duplicate set of claims, storing in the computer program successive even numbers beginning with a number above the highest Figure number to identify the respective element names, and searching in the computer program for each occurrence of each respective element name in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims and replacing each respective element name with that respective element name followed by successive ones of the even numbers to provide for the first time identifying reference numerals for the element names in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims and automatically shifting the reference numerals in response to changing the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims;

adding each reference numeral to every showing of the element in the drawings;

selecting and storing in the computer program abstract sentences including reference numbers from under the heading "DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT" which most succinctly and specifically describe the elements shown in the drawings with a description of the elements in the "characterized by" clause commensurate with the specificity recited in dependent claims, and retrieving the abstract sentences under the heading "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE";

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storing in the computer program each reference numeral recited in the "CLAIMS" and in the "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" within parenthesis "()", searching in the computer program and replacing each such reference numeral in the "CLAIMS" and in the "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" with the corresponding stored reference number within parentheses "()".

20. **(Currently amended)** A computer program and a computer comprising:

a template memory containing a document template containing [[the]] headings equivalent to,

"BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) Field of the Invention

2) Description of the Prior Art

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

CLAIMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE"; and

a page break immediately before said heading "CLAIMS" in the computer program; and

a page break separating said heading "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" from the remainder of said headings in the computer program; and

a footer for displaying the attorney file identification in the margin of every page of the application; and

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the text,

“Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is ;

Figure 2 is ;

Figure 3 is ;

Figure 4 is ; and

Figure 5 is .”

immediately after the heading “BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS”;

the text,

“The invention has been described in an illustrative manner, and it is to be understood that the terminology which has been used is intended to be in the nature of words of description rather than of limitation.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, wherein reference numerals are merely for convenience and are not to be in any way limiting, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.”

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before said page break preceding the heading "CLAIMS"; and characterized by an independent claim processor for duplicating and storing an independent claim under the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES" and for editing the duplicated independent claim copied under the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES" into grammatically correct sentence structure including changing "said" to "the" and adding verbs whereby the recitation under the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES" is commensurate in scope to said independent claim;

a multiple claim processor for duplicating and storing all of the claims under said heading "DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT" for creating the description and for searching and replacing each occurrence of the word "said" in said duplicate set of claims copied under the heading "DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT" with the word "the", and for editing said duplicate set of claims into grammatically correct sentence structure;

a reference number memory for storing successive even numbers beginning with the number ten;

a Figure number memory for receiving and storing the highest Figure number used to identify Figures of the drawings;

a reference number processor responsive to said Figure number memory for storing the element names of the elements in the order recited in said duplicate set of claims and for searching and replacing each occurrence of each respective element name in the order of occurrence in said duplicate set of claims with said respective element name followed by successive ones of said even numbers beginning with the first number ending in zero following the highest Figure number to provide for the first time

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identifying reference numerals for said element names in the order of occurrence in said duplicate set of claims and automatically shifting the reference numerals in response to changing the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims;

an abstract processor for selecting and storing abstract sentences including said reference numerals from under said heading "DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT" and duplicating said abstract sentences under said heading "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE"; and

a parenthesis processor for automatically enclosing each reference numeral within parentheses in said claims and in said "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE".